

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /040 W

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R 072149Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8473

INFO AMCONGEN BELIZE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GUATEMALA 5542

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR GT BH

SUBJECT: CONGRESSMAN'S FRUSTRATED VISIT TO BELIZEAN MOTHER-IN-LAW

1. ROQUELINO RECINOS, PR CONGRESSMAN FROM THE PETEN, ACCOMPANIED BY LA NACION REPORTER SERGIO CASASOLA LEMUS, AND ANOTHER UNIDENTIFIED FRIEND, MANAGED TO TALK THEIR WAY INTO BELIZE (WITHOUT PASSPORTS OR VISAS) OCTOBER 5. OSTENSIBLE REASON FOR THE VISIT WAS TO VISIT RECINOS' MOTHER-IN-LAW IN BENQUE VIEJO. (RECINOS, A PHYSICIAN, WAS DIRECTOR OF HOSPITAL ON BORDER AT MELCHOR DE MENCOS FOR 10 YEARS AND IS MARRIED TO A BELIZEAN.)

2. WHEN BELIZEAN AUTHORITIES DISCOVERED THE GROUPS ENTRY, PLAINCLOTHES POLICEMEN WERE DISPATCHED TO BENQUE VIEJO TO ESCORT THEM BACK TO THE BORDER. IN PRESS ACCOUNTS OF THE INCIDENT, RECINOS MADE MUCH OF THE FACT THAT BELIZEAN POLICE HAD NOT EVEN ALLOWED HIM TO EAT LUNCH WITH HIS MOTHER-IN-LAW.

3. COMMENT: IN AUGUST RECINOS ATTEMPTED TO ORGANIZE A VISIT BY THE ENTIRE PR CONGRESSIONAL BLOC TO BELIZE, A TRIP THAT WAS CANCELLED AFTER BELIZE GOVERNMENT REQUESTED ITS POSTPONEMENT UNTIL AFTER SEPTEMBER 15. CASASOLA HAD HIMSELF BEEN IN BELIZE (WITH VISA) AS RECENTLY AS A MONTH AGO.

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4. PID CONGRESSMAN ERNESTO CASTELLANOS MANZANERO TOLD

IMBOFF THAT HE HAD VISITED BELIZE ON WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 27-
28. HE HAD CROSSED OVER INTO BENQUE VIEJO AND VISITED
WITH HIS COUSIN, LT. COL. FRANCISCO CASTELLANOS, THE
GUATEMALAN CONSUL-GENERAL IN BELIZE. APPARENTLY ON THAT
OCCASION AUTHORITIES DID NOT BECOME AWARE IN TIME OF
FACT HE HAD ENTERED WITHOUT VISA. END COMMENT.
MELOY

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